

REMARKS

Claims 7-14 are currently pending. Claim 7 has been amended and claim 15 has been added. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 7 has been amended to recite that the first binder layer, printed part and second binder layer are formed in this order. Support for this amendment is found throughout the Specification and Drawings as filed, for example, at page 5, fourth paragraph.

Newly presented claim 15 recites that the printed part recited in claim 7 is ink. Support for this claim is found throughout the Specification and Drawings as filed, for example, at page 12, second paragraph.

Claims 7-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being unpatentable by U.S. Patent No. 5,362,540 to Keng. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 7, as amended, recites *inter alia*, a resin panel comprising “a first binder layer formed on the surface of [a] resin film; a printed part formed on the first binder layer; and a second binder layer formed to seal said printed part in co-operation with the first binder layer, the second binder layer contacting the first binder layer along a periphery of the printed part, wherein the first binder layer, printed part and second binder layer are formed in this order....”

Keng cannot anticipate amended claims 7-14, or newly presented claim 15, because it does not teach each and every element of these claims. See MPEP §2131. Keng describes a document lamination system including laminating sheets, adhesive, and shielding sheets, such that a document can be sealed within the lamination sheets and later removed undamaged. See Keng, Abstract. Keng specifically states that the purpose of shield device (16)

is “to prevent direct adherence of the sheets 12 and 14 to the document 10.” See Keng at column 2, lines 51-54.

The Office Action argues that Keng discloses “a printed part formed on the first binder layer (figure 2 number 10).” See Office Action at page 2, last paragraph. However, in Keng, element 10 is actually a “document” that is necessarily inserted in-between sheets 12 and 14 *after* the formation of such document. Keng does not teach or suggest that such a document is “formed on” a binder layer, as required by independent claim 7. Keng describes, “a shield device 16 is *placed* between the document 10 and the laminating device 11 to prevent direct adherence of the sheets 12 and 14 to the document 10.” See Keng, column 2, lines 51-54 (emphasis added). Applicants respectfully submit that “plac[ing] between,” as described by Keng does not teach or suggest “form[ing] on,” as claimed in independent claim 7.

Also, Keng, with the document being prepared and later inserted between the shield device, does not teach or suggest “the first binder layer, printed part and second binder layer are formed in this order,” as required by independent claim 7.

Moreover, The Office Action points to element 18 of Keng as a “first binder layer.” See Office Action at page 3, first line. However, element 18 of Keng is described by Keng as part of the shield device 16. See Keng at column 3, lines 1-8. In other words, the Office Action alleges that Keng describes that the document (10) is “formed on” the shield device (16). However, the purpose of the shield device (16) of Keng, is specifically to *resist* adhesion to the document (10). The document (10) is not formed on the shield device (e.g., 16, 18, 19) and Keng does not teach or suggest doing so. Thus for this additional reason, Keng does not teach or suggest, and indeed teaches away from “a printed part formed on the first binder layer,” as required by independent claim 7.

The Office Action further argues that, “[i]n this case, the limitation wherein the resin body is integrally molded with the insert film by inserting molding ... does not determine the patentability of the product itself.” See Office Action at page 4. In the claimed resin panel, by integrally molding the resin panel body with “said insert film by insert molding...” a structure results that is different from one involving adhesive in-between the components, as described by Keng. See Keng, Abstract, lines 2 and 5 and column 2, lines 24-37. Simply put, there is no separate “adhesive” between the “insert film” and the resin panel body, and thus the recited process is not just merely a different way of making the same thing, as argued by the Office Action.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Keng does not teach or suggest each and every element recited in claim 7. For this reason, claim 7 defines patentable subject matter over Keng. Claims 8-15 depend from claim 7. Since claim 7 defines patentable subject matter over Keng, so too do claims 8-15. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request for the rejection of claims 7-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being unpatentable over Keng to be withdrawn.

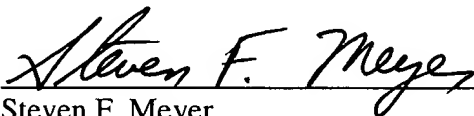
CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, it is believed that claims 7-15 as herein presented are patentable, and that this application is in allowable condition.

Respectfully submitted,
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